

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

British Nation.

Tuesday, March 14. 1710.

ADVERTISEMENT, To the Subscribers for this Paper in SCOTLAND.

Many have been the Enemies and Opposers, both of this Paper, and of its Author, and in nothing has it more plainly appeared, that they are wounded by the Force of those Truths this Paper gives Occasion to make Publick, than in the many visible Attempts to suppress it in both Parts of Britain.

In the South they have attempted it by false Informations to the Government, Complaints of Foreign Ambassadors; scandalous Presentments of Grand Juries, and the like: None of which have the Authors of dared to Prosecute, but having while the Author has been absent in Scotland, taken the Advantage to make these false Attacks upon him, they have always been ashamed to appear to them, or prosecute them; when the Author has come up, and shown himself ready to Answer and Defend it.

The Author on all these Occasions, has appear'd, whether in Courts of Justice, or at the respective Offices of His Majesties Secretaries of State, or at any Place where any of these pretended Complaints have been made, and has offered himself legally to defend the Truth and Justice of any thing that might be objected against in his Writings; and hitherto no Enemy has ventur'd to stand a Trial with him.

Nor have the Attempts to prevent the Publication of this Paper in the North of Britain been less vigorous in their Degree.

Threatning and scandalous Letters have been sent to Mrs. Anderson Her Majesties Printer in Edinburgh, to warn her not to print it—Telling her the Author was a Jesuit, and that he would certainly be Impeach'd the next Parliament, and such wild Incoherent and Inconsistent Notions, if possible, to prevent its being Printed.

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Endeavours have then been used to discourage and draw off the Subscribers, who have hitherto been the Support of the Expence—And some have done this by printing scandalous Aspersions upon the Author, full of Slander and Falsity, as is notorious lately among others, by a scurrilous Paper printed in the Name of Mr. Clark.

The last Attempt of these Kinds has been by intercepting the Letters which bring the Printed Copies from England, in order to render the Review uncertain, and the coming out of it irregular, and thereby to Discourage the Subscribers.

This indeed, as it is the unfairest Practice, so has it been the most Effectual, and even the Friends to the Design have been most prevailed with, by it, to take Offence at, and decline the Paper—And this causes the Author to publish this Advertisement to the said Subscribers, both for their Information, and to State the Case so fairly to them, that his Friends may be satisfied in his Proceedings, whether he continue the Paper or no.

First, He assures the Gentlemen, That as it was published in Scotland, at the Request of the Subscribers, and with a sincere Design to the publick Service, so the Author has never receiv'd any Profit, or Advantage by it, nor ever propos'd any Advantage to himself by it, other than to Inform, Serve and Benefit the Publick——

Secondly, That if the Gentlemen think it is no longer useful to the publick Good, and does no more answer the End and Design for which they at first Encouraged it, he is content, when ever they please to desist; desiring no longer to Print, or Write, or Act, than he can be useful to the Cause of Truth and Liberty, which he has calculated these Papers to serve.

Thirdly, That he Humbly, and with Respect desires to remind the Gentlemen subscribing to it, That the Terms of Subscription were to oblige the Subscribers for two Years, with a certain time of Notice, when they resolve to decline; and it would be but just to give the Author, who lives so Remote, and is at a certain Charge in the Publication, the Time of warning agreed upon, that as he publishes it without Gain, so he may lay it down without Loss.

Lastly, He assures the Subscribers, That none of these Methods to injure and suppress this Paper discourage him, or shall prevent its Publication, while it may be thought useful for the Ends for which it was first Designed, and until the Subscribers themselves decline it; and that he hopes he has taken effectual Care to prevent any further intercepting the Copy by the Post; but that if at any Time, any Papers should miscarry, they shall be supplied in the subsequent Papers, and the Loss to the Subscribers shall be made up at the End of every Volume. D. F.

When Men without Doors are spoken of within Doors, such Men are not Men too wit in Doors, to be a little mention'd by those without Doors.

It is no printing any Part of Dr. Snotoverell's Trial to print those Quotations out of the Review, which that Reverend Gentleman has thought fit to offer upon his Trial——But first, before I enter upon these Quotations, you are to understand, That the Doctor in Managing his Defence has thought fit to justify his Saying the Church was in Danger, by endeavouring to show the Danger, of the Church, from sundrie Writings of the modern Authors of this Age——

These he divides into sundrie Sorts; and at last, from the Review, &c. the Observations about the Church.

Since the Doctor has fallen into the Misfortune now upon him, I have indutiously forborn falling upon him personally, because from a boxing young English Boy I learnt this early Piece of Generosity, *Not to strike my Enemy when he was down*——

But since the Gentleman is pleas'd to attack me, I can by no Means be so much a party to the Doctrine of Non-Resistance, as to forbear my own Defence, when I am fallen upon in so unfair a Manner.

I am told, that one of the most strenuous Arguments the Dr's Council has us'd against the Managers of the *House of Commons*, is the taking several parts of his Sermon as a Charge against him, without the necessary Connect'on thercof with, or reasonable Construction by the other parts of the said Book——whether or no this is alludg'd I am not certain.

tain, and I must say, that if it was said, I think, it is not at all a just Charge; but it is most evident, that in the few Quotations the Reverend *Doffor* has made out of the *Review*, he has notoriously us'd me in the same Manner; and therefore in order to let the World judge of what is alledg'd in this Case—— I shall let the World know what I have been quoted in—— in what Manner, and on what Occasion I have said what has been quoted.

And in doing this, I must take Leave to let the World know what I have said, and a little also of what I have not said, relating to the Reverend *Doffor*; by which all Men may judge, with what Justice I have spoke, with what Civility to the *Doffor* I have forbore to speak, and with what Breach of both, the *Doffor* has quoted the *Review*.

The Quotations are as follow——

Whether our Fathers had a Necessity to make those exclusive Laws, and impose as necessary their different Things, acknowledg'd to be so, as Terms of Communion: *He says*, nor is this all, but supposing they had, which nevertheless I do not grant, then *his Address* is further press'd to your Lordships to examine, whether that Necessity does yet continue or no; either of which will be the same thing; for if there either was not a Necessity at the Time of Enacting, or that Necessity does not yet remain, let which will happen to fall out, the Act of Uniformity imposing such and such indifferent Things as Terms of Communion, will appear scandalous to the Church, injurious to the publick Peace, and a Grievance to the whole Nation *Review*, N^o 112. Vol. II. Page 447, 448.

I cannot but tell him, should I publish the Matters of Fact which I am Master of, with Respect to the *High-Flying* Gentlemen of the Clergy; should I give a faithful Account of the most infamous and scandalous Behaviour, the notorious Lives, the beastly Excesses, and the furious Treatment of their Brethren the *Dissenters*, which

on a small Search I have been acquainted with; the Inferiour Clergy of his Party would appear the most wretched, provoking, abominable Crew, that ever GOD suffer'd to live unpunish'd, since He destroyed *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* by Fire from Heaven. *Rev.* N^o 27 Vol. III. P. 107.

If Words could be made Treason, one Third at least of the Inferior Clergy in England would be hang'd. *Rev.* N^o 105. Vol. II. P. 418.

I again appeal to You, Gentlemen, whether, generally speaking, all over this unhappy Nation, the Clergy are not, Three Parts in Five, in a close Conjunction with the Enemies of the Church's Peace, and the profess'd Enemies of the Government? *Rev.* May 26, 1705, Vol. 2. N^o 36. P.

Others, not so directly, but altogether as fatally, and tending to the same End, with subtle Designs to divide and amuse the People, by Preaching, Writing, and Printing, endeavour to revive the said exploded Doctrines of Non Resistance, and absolute uncondition'd Obedience, as Things the people of England ought to think themselves oblig'd by; which tho in themselves of no Force, yet manifestly tend to unravel the Constitution, to invalidate the Queen's Title to the Crown, and destroy the legal Authority of Parliaments in the Nation. An eminent Proof of which is now depending before the House. *Review*, N^o 118. Vol. VI. P. 471.

Drunkennes, Oaths, and abominable Lewdness, Ignorance, Negligence, and scandalous Insufficiency, abhor'd Error, Deism, and Socinianism have over-run the Clergy. *Rev.* N^o 93. Vol. 6 P. 371.

Speaking of the Family of the Stuarts, calls it, The Line of all the World fam'd for Blood, and that had ravag'd the best Families of the Kingdom. *Rev.* N^o 122. Vol. III. P. 486.

Ever since the Coming of King *James I.* to the Crown, this Nation has been perplex'd with Divisions, Uncertainties, OPPRESSIONS, and Murmurs both in SOVEREIGN and Subject. *Rev.* N^o 43. Vol. II. P. 170.

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Speaking of the Liturgy and Ceremonies; Is there any Necessity for the imposing these indifferent Things? Has not then the Civil Authority incur'd a Guilt, when imposing by its Power what is not necessary to be impos'd, it has err'd in Judgment, and commanded that which it ought not to have commanded? Rev. N^o 112. Vol. II.

Either the *Dissenters* had Reason for former Discontents, and Reason to complain of Oppression, Persecution, and Infringement of Privileges, or they had not. If they had, the Church was cruel, and the State unjust before in laying those Loads upon them; if they had not, both Church and State were infatuated and delirious in granting them the Toleration and Liberties since conceded. *Rev. N^o 44. Vol. II. p. 184.*

If the next Parliament should pursue the Steps of the last, the Nation, in my Opinion, will be so much nearer the Crisis of Time, when *English Liberty* being brought to the last Extremity, must open the Magazine of Original Power. *Rev. N^o 46. Vol. II. p. 181, 182.*

What can be said for members sitting in the *House* to do Nothing, making long Speeches without Meaning, and voting Bills without Design to have them pass? *Rev. N^o 27. Vol. II. p. 106.*

The Ballance between 41 and 88, will appear to run against Him; and the Difference between the dry Martyrdom of King *James* by his Passive-obedience Church Subjects, and the wet Martyrdom of King *Charles I.* by People that never made any such Pretence, will appear so small, that 'tis not worth Dr. D—'s while to meddle with it. *Rev. N^o 122. Vol. II. p. 489.*

I really find the State of *England* in general to be thus; its Trade under a sensible, miserable Decay in all its Branches—Its Navy great and flourishing; but all her well laid Designs, either defeated in their Preparations, by the miserable Methods, and ill Government with Relation to Seamen, or disappointed by the ill Conduct or Cowardise of her Commanders. In Civil Concerns, in the utmost Confusion of Parties—blending together the most absurd Contradictions, such as propagating Religi-

on by a scandalous Ministry—reforming Manners by debauch'd Magistrates, and chusing Men to make Laws by Bribery and Corruption. *Rev. N^o 2. Vol. II. p. 5.*

As the *Dissenter* and his Friends have done me the Honour to quote the Passages above, as abusive to the Church, and Evidences of the Danger of it—I have, to avoid Misrepresentations, given you the Particulars together; I thank God, they have not been able to pick any thing out of all I have wrote, that I have any Reason to be ashamed of, or any thing, but what even these Church of *England* Men, who are in their right Wits, and in the true Interest of the Church, will acknowledge to be for her Service.

I could have reproach'd the *Doctor* with his own Behaviour on several accounts; and tho' he has been pleas'd to justify his Conduct as to the Revolution, I could have sufficiently expos'd him on that Account—As to his Morals, his Manners, and his Moderation, I could have painted him much to his Disadvantage; but I have forborn both, on Account of his Troubles.

But since he has affirm'd to the *House of Lords* his constant Zeal for the Revolution, endeavouring to amuse the Nation with the Cheat of having taken the Oaths, I refer the Enquirers to Mr. *Sam. Eberall*, at or near *Birmingham*, who has, in the Hearing of many Witnesses, which I can produce, affirm'd, That he heard the *Doctor* say of the late King *William*—That he deserved to be DEWITTED, and he hop'd he should live to see it.

This I have been long invited to publish and have been press'd to it by Gentlemen, that have offer'd themselves to vouch it—But I have declin'd it, till forc'd to it, I think, upon this just Foundation, when my words are brought in as an Attack upon the Church, and the Mask of Revolution-Principles is put upon the black Fraud of a Non-Resistance Champion. I forbear him as to Drunkenness and Immoralities, till he puts the same Necessity on me there too.

I shall defend the Quotations out of the REVIEW in my next.

